

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Grim Building

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

113-115 East Washington

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Kirksville

VICINITY OF

#6-Hon. Thomas E. Coleman

STATE

Missouri

CODE
029

COUNTY
Adair

CODE
001

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

OWNERSHIP

STATUS

PRESENT USE

___DISTRICT

___PUBLIC

☒ OCCUPIED

___AGRICULTURE

___MUSEUM

☒ BUILDING(S)

☒ PRIVATE

___UNOCCUPIED

☒ COMMERCIAL

___PARK

___STRUCTURE

___BOTH

___WORK IN PROGRESS

___EDUCATIONAL

___PRIVATE RESIDENCE

___SITE

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

ACCESSIBLE

___ENTERTAINMENT

___RELIGIOUS

___OBJECT

___IN PROCESS

☒ YES: RESTRICTED

___GOVERNMENT

___SCIENTIFIC

___BEING CONSIDERED

___YES: UNRESTRICTED

___INDUSTRIAL

___TRANSPORTATION

___NO

___MILITARY

___OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Michael W. Mulford

STREET & NUMBER

113 East Washington

CITY, TOWN

Kirksville

VICINITY OF

STATE

Missouri 63501

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Recorder of Deeds, Adair County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

Courthouse Square

CITY, TOWN

Kirksville

STATE

Missouri 63501

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Missouri State Historical Survey

DATE

1979

___FEDERAL ☒ STATE ___COUNTY ___LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Department of Natural Resources

CITY, TOWN

Jefferson City

STATE

Missouri 65102

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

☐ EXCELLENT
☒ GOOD
☐ FAIR

☐ DETERIORATED
☐ RUINS
☐ UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

☐ UNALTERED
☒ ALTERED

CHECK ONE

☒ ORIGINAL SITE
☐ MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Grim Building stands just east of the county courthouse square in the downtown business district of Kirksville, Missouri. It is constructed of red brick, laid in common bond, with added detailing in white limestone. Its L plan rests on a foundation of quarry faced, limestone ashlar blocks and it is capped by a tar and gravel roof which slopes gently from south to north. This roof is concealed behind a brick parapet which decreases in height from front to rear along the east and west sides of the building.

The major (south) facade of the Grim Building measures 55'4" while that on the north measures only 48'3" due to a decrease in the width of the building at a point 9' along its eastern side. The building measures 59'8" along the east and west. An alley runs along its west side and a one story brick office building nearly abuts its east wall. A brick warehouse, rectangular in plan, which was constructed at the same time as the main building, is located 13' to the north of its north wall.

EXTERIOR

The primary facade of the Grim Building features sculptural details of English Gothic and Italian Renaissance-Baroque design which characterize what has come to be known as the Jacobethan Revival style. In the central bay of this three bayed facade is the main entrance to the building which features a limestone basket-handle arch 7'8" in width which springs from impost level quoin headers. Resting below the arch and above the quoin headers to either side is a unique "capital" composed of two spindle shapes, the larger resting on the smaller. This arched entryway is dominated by a limestone hood mold executed in high relief featuring shields, dragons, grapes and an elaborate acanthus rinceau. A pair of molded and paneled wooden doors, each with a rectangular transom, fills the back wall of the entranceway. The large central light in each door echoes the shape of the main arch above.

Directly above the arch, at the top of the parapet which caps this facade, a cartouche rests on a triangular pediment which has a lion's head, carved in high relief, centered in its tympanum. Below the pediment and at the center of the parapet wall is a scrolled plaque carved with the date, "A.D. 1905" and flanked by two large scrolled brackets. Below this a smoothed stone architrave is supported by modillions and incised with the name, "Grim Building". The parapet is further embellished by a molded limestone stringcourse below and a similar cornice above, and squat engaged pilasters of brick which are capped with squat kraters. Each of these kraters once supported a slender obelisk topped with a ball. In addition, two sculptured medallions are located on the parapet. That to the east represents a bearded man and that to the west, a woman.

The fenestration of the three bayed south facade features two triplet groupings of 1-over-1 light, double-hung windows in each flanking bay. A window pair in a similar design caps the main entrance and a single window with identical detailing is located to either side of the basket-handle arch. Each window

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GRIM BUILDING

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 1

group is decorated with limestone lugsills, lintels and quoins, while staggered limestone quoin headers embrace the facade at its east and west extremes.

The other facades of the Grim Building are of simple design, embellished only with segmental arches of brick above their numerous windows. A rear entrance is located to the north and a subsidiary entranceway on the east side has been closed with wooden planks.

INTERIOR

The first and second floors of the Grim Building are divided into office space (see plan). Notable features include oak woodwork on the first floor and mirrored chimney pieces embellished with Doric and Ionic classical detailing, glazed tiles and ornate cast metal screens on both floors.

A full basement with a concrete floor and limestone walls is reached by an interior stairway from the first floor. None of the rooms here are presently in use. The basement is the location of a vault and the furnace (see plan).

ALTERATIONS

On the south facade an iron railing in the center of the steps has been added, and the obelisks have been removed from each of the four stone kraters which rest on the parapet. The original wood platform and steps at the north end have been replaced by concrete, and iron railings were added. Originally the building was heated with steam generated by a coal furnace and by gas fireplaces. Electric light with power provided by a Delco system was augmented by gaslight. Today the building is heated with steam generated by a natural gas furnace and flourescent lighting fixtures replace the former ones. Interior walls in the southwest corner of the first floor have been replaced by wood paneling. On the second floor the ceiling has been lowered and the plaster replaced by building board. Ceiling tile has been installed in the offices on the east side.

PRESENT STATUS

The site of the Grim Building was, at one time, designated as a priority parking area for downtown Kirksville. The latest city plan, however, indicates no plans to demolish the building and the owner is dedicated to its preservation.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
	<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			Medicine

SPECIFIC DATES 1905 BUILDER/ARCHITECT A. Weber and Albert B. Groves

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Grim Building in downtown Kirksville, Missouri is a fine local example of the Jacobethan Revival style of design. This style is rarely found in Missouri outside major cities. In addition, this building, along with several streets in Kirksville named Grim and the Grim-Smith Hospital, serves as a memorial to a once prominent family of physicians, educators and civic leaders.

In 1904 Ezra C. Grim, M.D. and his brother, Edward A. Grim, M.D. hired the St. Louis architectural firm of Weber and Groves to design a building for their practice. They intended that it should provide a suite of offices and operating rooms as well as space for business offices.² The principle architect was Albert Bartleton Groves (1866-1925) who settled in St. Louis a few years after graduating from Cornell University in 1888. In 1891 he became a partner in the firm of Grable, Weber and Groves which became Weber and Groves in 1893. After Weber died in 1905 Groves pursued his profession alone.³ He is especially remembered for his designs of the Union Avenue Christian Church (1907), Westminster Presbyterian Church (1916), St. Mary's Hospital (1923) and, with Thomas C. Young, the Masonic Temple, completed a year after his death, all in St. Louis, Missouri.⁴ A.L. Holmes, a Kirksville contractor, successfully bid to erect the building for \$11,248. With the heating system and the construction of the warehouse to the rear the total cost came to \$15,000.⁵

The Grim brothers were prominent Kirksville physicians and civic leaders for many years. They practiced medicine and surgery in the suite of rooms on the east side of the first floor of their building. When, in 1909, they erected a hospital on East Patterson Street in Kirksville, Ezra moved his practice to the new building which, in 1924, became known as the Grim-Smith Hospital. Edward continued to practice medicine in the suite of rooms in the Grim Building until his death in 1936.⁶

The building remained in the Grim family until it was purchased in 1964 by H. Gordon Collett, a grandnephew of the Doctors Grim. Most of the renovations and alterations were made during the period of his ownership. It was sold again in 1970 to Dr. Barry Gushleff and in 1975 to Michael W. Mulford and Gary D. Lewis,⁷ prominent Kirksville attorneys. In January, 1979 Mulford became the sole owner.

The survey of Missouri's historic sites is based on their selection as they relate to theme studies in Missouri history as outlined in "Missouri's State Historic Preservation Plan". The Grim Building, therefore, is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places as an example of the themes of "Architecture" and "Science".

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GRIM BUILDING

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 1

FOOTNOTES

1. Information on the prominent role of the Grim family in Kirksville can be found in articles in the Kirksville [Missouri] Daily Express of February 17, 1936 and May 26, 1943, and in P.O. Selby, Biographies of the Regents of Northeast Missouri State University, 1870-1973 (Kirksville: Northeast Missouri State University, 1973), pp. 51-52.
2. Michael W. Mulford, personal interview with Dr. David March of Northeast Missouri State University, August 19, 1978 and H. Gordon Collett, personal interview with Dr. David March, December 29, 1978.
3. John W. Leonard, ed., A Book of St. Louisans (St. Louis: St. Louis Republic, 1906), p. 242.
4. John Albury Bryan, comp. and ed., Missouri's Contribution to American Architecture (St. Louis: St. Louis Architectural Club, 1928), pp. 129, 172, 184, 207 and 245.
5. Kirksville [Missouri] Journal, May 18, 1905.
6. Collett, personal interview.
7. Deed Records, Books 137, 195, 220 and 245, County Recorder's Office, Adair County Courthouse, Kirksville, Mo. 63501

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

1. Bryan, John Albury, comp. and ed. Missouri's Contribution to American Architecture. St. Louis: St. Louis Architectural Club, 1928.
2. Collett, H. Gordon. Personal interview with Dr. David March, December 29, 1978.
3. Deed Records. Books 137, 195, 220 and 245. County Recorder's Office, Adair County

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than one acre

Latitude: 40° 11' 43"
Longitude: 92° 34' 52"

QUADRANGLE NAME "Kirksville, Mo."

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:62500

UTM REFERENCES

A 1 5 5 3 5 6 5 5 4 4 4 9 3 0 5

B

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C

D

E

F

G

H

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Lot 3, Block 12, original City of Kirksville, Missouri.

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE 1. David D. March
Professor Emeritus of History

ORGANIZATION Northeast Missouri State University

DATE March 23, 1979

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE 816/665-5121, ext. 3352

CITY OR TOWN

Kirksville

STATE Missouri 63501

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL STATE LOCAL X

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

TITLE Director, Department of Natural Resources and
State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

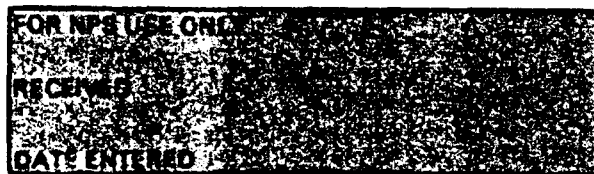
ATTEST: KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM



GRIM BUILDING

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 9

PAGE 1

3. Courthouse, Kirksville, Mo. 63501
4. Kirksville [Missouri] Daily Express, February 17, 1936 and May 26, 1943.
5. Kirksville [Missouri] Journal, May 18, 1905.
6. Leonard, John W. A Book of St. Louisans. St. Louis: St. Louis Republic, 1906.
7. Mulford, Michael J. Personal interview with Dr. David March, August 19, 1978.
8. Selby, P.O. Biographies of the Regents of Northeast Missouri State University. Kirksville: Northeast Missouri State University, 1973.

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
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GRIM BUILDING

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 11 PAGE 1

2. James Denny (State contact person)
Section Chief, Nominations-Survey
Office of Historic Preservation
Department of Natural Resources
P.O. Box 176
Jefferson City

314/751-4096
Missouri 65102

(Edina)
1
125 000

92° 30'

R. 15 W

R. 14 W

40° 15'

T. 63 N.

ADAIR 9 MI.
BEARING 18 MI.

EDINA 18 MI
N.

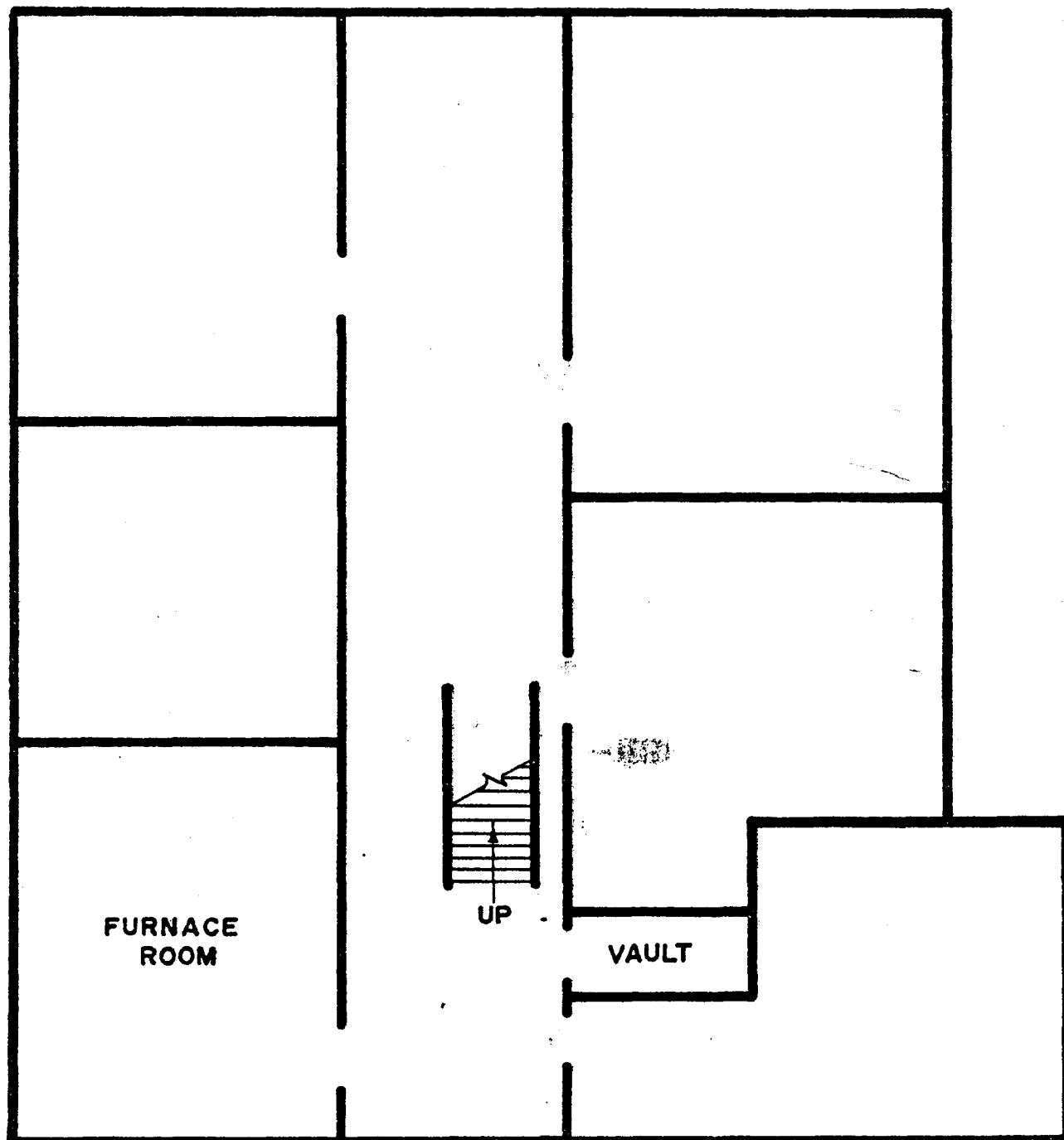
100541 Unipol

GRIM BUILDING
U.S.G.S. 15' Quadrangle
"Kirksville, Mo." (1938)
Scale: 1:62,500

UTM Reference: 15/535655/4449305
Latitude Longitude
40° 11' 43" 92° 34' 52"

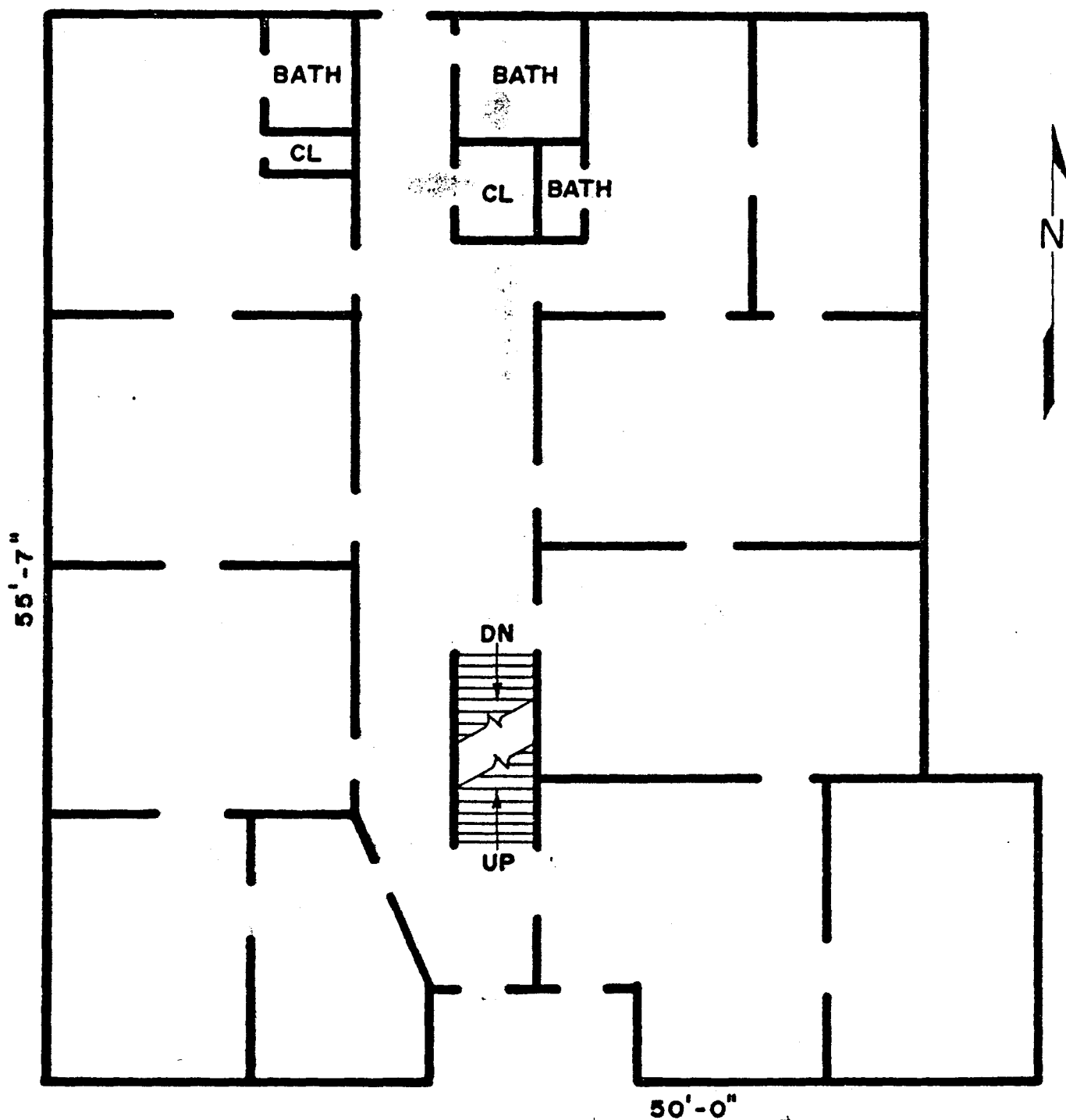
BASEMENT PLAN
GRIM BUILDING
KIRKSVILLE, MISSOURI

NOT TO SCALE



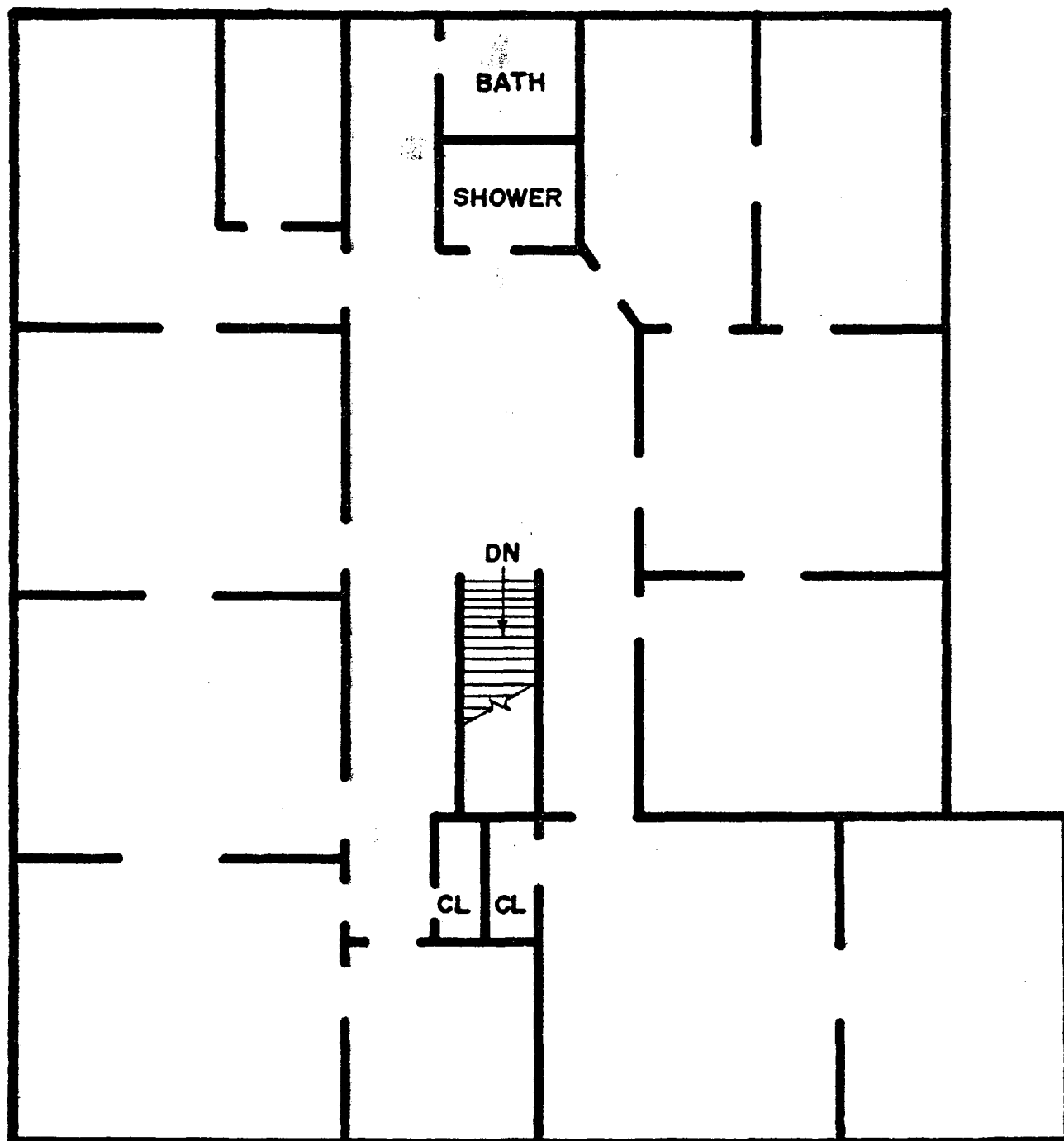
FIRST FLOOR PLAN
GRIM BUILDING
KIRKSVILLE, MISSOURI

NOT TO SCALE



SECOND FLOOR PLAN
GRIM BUILDING
KIRKSVILLE, MISSOURI

NOT TO SCALE





GRIM BUILDING

Kirksville, Missouri

Photographer: Leon Karel

October, 1978

Neg. Loc.: Department of Natural Resources,
P.O. Box 176, Jefferson City, Mo. 65102
South facade.

#1



GRIM BUILDING

Kirksville, Missouri

Photographer: Leon Karel

October, 1978

Neg. Loc.: Department of Natural Resources,

P.O. Box 176, Jefferson City, Mo. 65102

South facade, detail of crown over central bay.

#2



GRIM BUILDING

#3

Kirksville, Missouri

Photographer: Leon Karel

October, 1978

Neg. Loc.: Department of Natural Resources,

P.O. Box 176, Jefferson City, Mo. 65102

South facade, detail, main entryway.



GRIM BUILDING

#4

Kirksville, Missouri

Photographer: Leon Karel

October, 1978

Neg. Loc.: Department of Natural Resources,
P.O. Box 176, Jefferson City, Mo. 65102

North facade showing the vernacular traits
common on the east and west sides as well.



GRIM BUILDING

#5

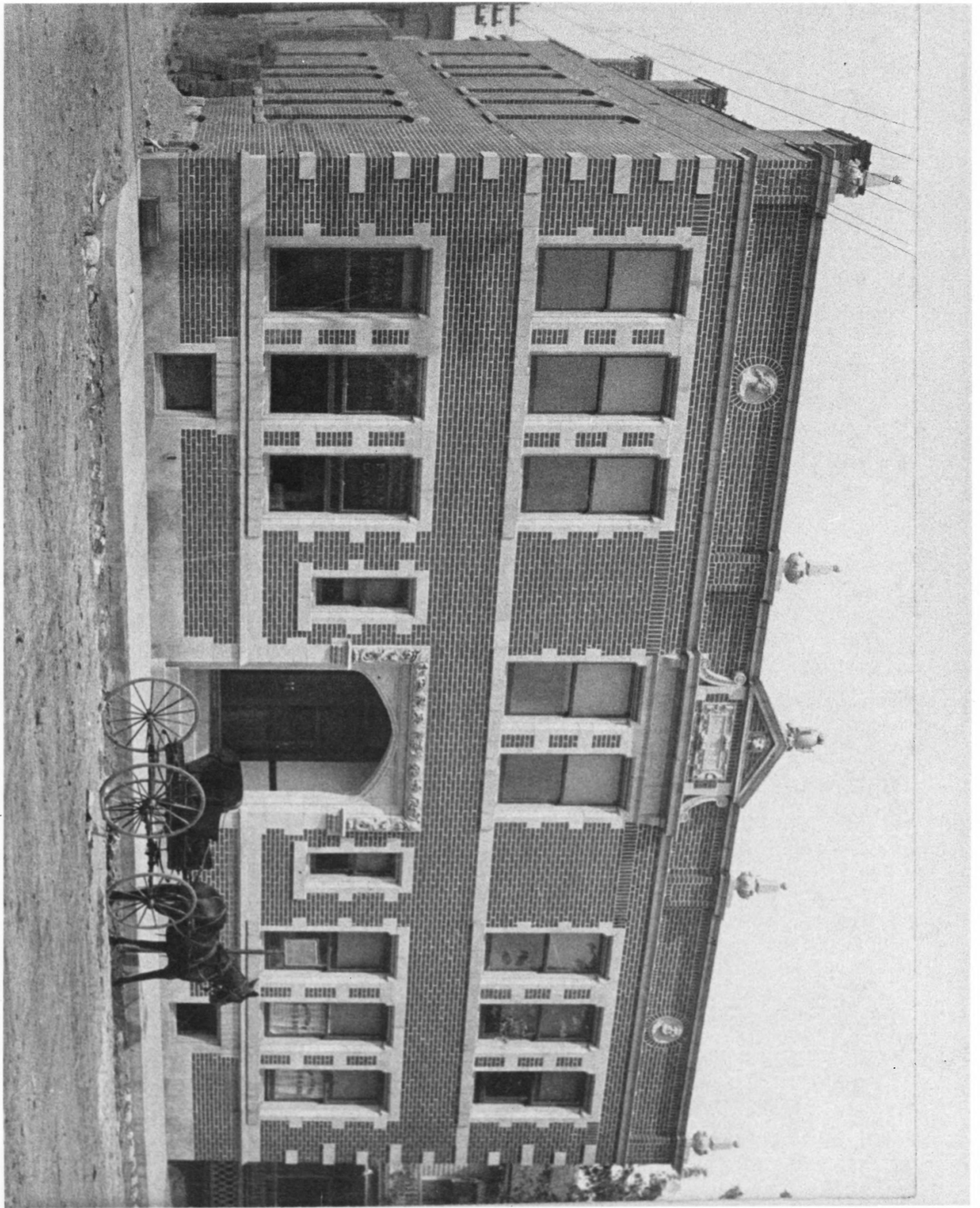
Kirksville, Missouri

Photographer: Leon Karel

October, 1978

Neg. Loc.: Department of Natural Resources,
P.O. Box 176, Jefferson City, Mo. 65102

Interior, one of the several decorative chimney
pieces to be found in the building. This one
is located on the west wall in the office in
the southwest corner of the first floor.



GRIM BUILDING

#6

Kirksville, Missouri

Photographer: Leon Kare1

October, 1978

Neg. Loc.: Department of Natural Resources,
P.O. Box 176, Jefferson City, Mo. 65102
South facade, the Grim Building with its
obelisks intact.